

# FIELD TRIPS AND THE FIVE SENSES

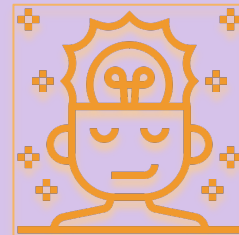
## *Adding to the book-learning experience*

The more senses a child uses, the better that child will remember.

During the first 5 years, much of what children experience is new. A child will touch a cat, a flower, smell a skunk and hear a fire truck, all for the first time. These sensory experiences build on each other as they learn more and more about the world around them. As children grow older, they come to rely more upon their senses of sight and hearing to learn, because television, computer games, and movies rely heavily on these two senses.

Say your child wants to learn about a dairy farm. As her first teacher, you can teach her a song like Old MacDonald, or read her a book of farmyard tales and then, maybe, visit a real dairy farm to hear the cows mooing and the clink clink of the milking machines; feel the cows' silky smooth coats; smell the sweet hay and musky manure; taste the rich milk products.

Or visit an outdoor market in the city. Breathe in the aromas of the herbs and flowers and touch the produce, the prickly pineapples, the bumpy avocados. While you are there, mingle with people from other cultures and listen to the sounds of unfamiliar languages.



*A quality children's book is one that awakens all the five senses in the words with vivid illustrations and rich descriptive passages, but the real thing (a field trip) will only enhance the book-learning experience.*

With input from: "Using All Five Senses For Learning," Canadian Child Care Federation. Resource Sheet #3. Used with permission.

